

retain the very best. We must never forget that for all the expensive weaponry and high-tech gadgetry, the men and women who wear the uniforms are the backbone of our military.

In that respect, perhaps the most important provision of this bill is one that makes retroactive an increase in the maximum annuity available to servicemembers' families through the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Though this increase was signed into law on November 1, 2000, the effective date of this increase is not until April 1, 2001. Regrettably, for many of our servicemembers and families—most notably, the 21 National Guard members killed in a plane crash earlier this month, the 17 sailors killed in the terrorist bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole*, and personnel lost in training accidents in Hawaii and Kuwait—this is too late.

For all these reasons, I urge my colleague to support H.R. 801. But, I also rise in strong support, Mr. Speaker, of the second veterans' bill on the floor today, the Veterans' Hospital Emergency Repair Act.

The Veterans' Health Administration operates the largest federal health care delivery system in the country with 172 medical centers, 409 domiciliaries, 132 nursing homes, and 829 outpatient clinics. In 1999, these providers treated 3.6 million veterans.

Just as our veterans have been aging, so too has the infrastructure this grateful nation established to care for them. So many of the hospitals and facilities to which these veterans must go for care are simply unsafe or clearly distressed. We must not sacrifice the health and welfare of our veterans in such facilities.

The Veterans' Hospital Emergency Repair Act would complement an ongoing review within the Veterans' Health Administration, the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES). To borrow a phrase from the President's address to Congress last month: Our veterans health vision should drive our veterans health budget.

Congress made an informed decision in its last session to move the veterans' health system into the 21st century by enacting the Veterans' Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act. CARES, is a realistic way to determine how we move from the old system of medicine that revolved around hospital-based care to the new which relies upon outpatient and community-based care without sacrificing quality and without sinking dollars into infrastructure that we can reasonably expect to fall by the wayside. H.R. 811 can help to make that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Veterans' Committee Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Ranking Member, LANE EVANS, for their leadership in moving both H.R. 801 and H.R. 811 to the floor so quickly. I urge my colleagues to support both these bills.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor and strong supporter of H.R. 811, the Veterans Hospital Emergency Repair Act, I am pleased that this bill is being considered today. Like any large organization, the Department of Veterans Affairs has many facilities which, as they age, require periodic repairs to assure that patients are cared for in an appropriate, safe, accessible setting.

Our Nation's veterans need to be assured that their care will not be jeopardized because

funds are not available to make necessary and appropriate emergency repairs. This bill will provide that assurance.

I thank Chairman SMITH and our Ranking Democratic Member Mr. EVANS, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Democratic Member of the Subcommittee on Health, Mr. MORAN and Mr. FILNER for this timely bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 811, Veteran's Emergency Hospital. This legislation cures a shortfall in funding that should have been allocated to veterans last year.

No funding was provided through the appropriation process for Veterans Affairs Department (VA) major construction in FY 2001, despite Congress having authorized \$116 million for four major projects. This occurred partly because the appropriators chose to wait for the VA's "Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services," or CARES initiatives, to deliver a plan for alternative uses of un-needed VA facilities. That plan, however, may take a number of years to complete. In the meantime, the VA is funding its building projects by using the minor-construction, minor-miscellaneous and non-recurring maintenance accounts.

H.R. 811 basically authorizes as much as \$250 million in fiscal year 2002 and \$300 million in fiscal year 2003 to fund various major medical facility construction projects. The measure actually authorizes the VA to select patient care projects for construction and cap project costs at \$25 million for any single project, except for seismic corrections. The bill specifies that the authorized funds should improve, replace, renovate or update facilities, including research facilities that need to be upgraded.

The measure also requires the VA to consider recommendations of the department's independent board for capital investments in selecting projects; to permit it to use the Advance Planning Fund to design projects selected under this bill; and requires the VA and the General Accounting Office to report to Congress on projects selected under the new authority, their purposes and costs, the results of the authorization process, and recommendations for changing this authority as needed.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

□ 1515

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 811, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 811, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### REPORT OF CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING, CALENDAR YEAR 2000—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-356), I transmit herewith the report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting covering calendar year 2000.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 2001.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

□ 1602

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

#### PROVIDING FOR EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of March 27, 2001, without intervention of any point of order, to consider House Resolution 84; that the resolution be considered as

read for amendment; that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration now printed in the resolution be considered as adopted; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the resolution, as amended, to adoption, without intervening motion except 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on House Administration, and pursuant to the order of the House just agreed to, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 84) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Seventh Congress and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the resolution is considered read for amendment.

The text of House Resolution 84 is as follows:

H. RES. 84

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Seventh Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in that subsection.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$10,010,397; Committee on Armed Services, \$10,847,677; Committee on the Budget, \$11,221,912.71; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$15,590,870; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$18,813,475; Committee on Financial Services, \$15,095,429; Committee on Government Reform, \$21,842,000; Committee on House Administration, \$7,859,306; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$7,475,073.97; Committee on International Relations, \$14,495,256; Committee on the Judiciary, \$15,490,248; Committee on Resources, \$11,980,260; Committee on Rules, \$5,370,773; Committee on Science, \$12,254,301.50; Committee on Small Business, \$4,798,783; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$2,921,091.20; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$16,559,562; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,273,013; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$16,077,758.

**SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2001, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2002.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$4,918,497; Committee on Armed Services, \$5,182,597; Committee on the Budget, \$5,513,304.71; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$8,137,966; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$8,938,911.40; Committee on Financial Services, \$7,568,506; Committee on Government Reform, \$10,692,000; Committee on House Administration, \$3,765,460; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$3,660,021.59; Committee on International Relations, \$7,003,845; Committee on the Judiciary, \$7,595,624; Committee on Resources, \$5,804,266; Committee on Rules, \$2,644,509; Committee on Science, \$6,000,079; Committee on Small Business, \$2,312,344; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,383,708; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$7,873,320; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$2,576,765; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$8,014,668.

**SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2002, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2003.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$5,091,900; Committee on Armed Services, \$5,665,080; Committee on the Budget, \$5,708,608; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$7,452,904; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$9,874,563.60; Committee on Financial Services, \$7,526,923; Committee on Government Reform, \$11,150,000; Committee on House Administration, \$4,093,846; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$3,815,052.38; Committee on International Relations, \$7,491,411; Committee on the Judiciary, \$7,894,624; Committee on Resources, \$6,175,994; Committee on Rules, \$2,726,264; Committee on Science, \$6,254,222.50; Committee on Small Business, \$2,486,439; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,537,383.20; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$8,686,242; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$2,696,248; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$8,063,090.

**SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.**

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chairman of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

**SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

**SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.**

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment printed in the resolution is adopted.

The text of H. Res. 84, as amended, is as follows:

H. RES. 84

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Seventh Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in that subsection.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$9,607,006; Committee on Armed Services, \$10,872,677; Committee on the Budget, \$11,107,043; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$13,573,886; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$17,226,770; Committee on Financial Services, \$11,846,231; Committee on Government Reform, \$19,420,233; Committee on House Administration, \$7,418,045; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$6,955,074; Committee on International Relations, \$12,672,626; Committee on the Judiciary, \$13,166,463; Committee on Resources, \$11,601,260; Committee on Rules, \$5,370,773; Committee on Science, \$10,628,041; Committee on Small Business, \$4,798,783; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$2,871,091; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$14,479,551; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,142,263; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$14,748,888.

**SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2001, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2002.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$4,675,093; Committee on Armed Services, \$5,182,597; Committee on the Budget, \$5,403,522; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$7,059,821; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$8,527,251; Committee on Financial Services, \$5,705,025; Committee on Government Reform, \$9,810,000; Committee on House Administration, \$3,560,662; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$3,407,986; Committee on International Relations, \$6,202,095; Committee on the Judiciary, \$6,339,902; Committee on Resources, \$5,595,266; Committee on Rules, \$2,644,509; Committee on Science, \$5,172,668; Committee on Small Business, \$2,312,344; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,358,708; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$6,964,664; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$2,516,765; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$7,228,481.

**SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2002, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2003.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$4,931,913; Committee on Armed Services, \$5,690,080; Committee on the Budget, \$5,703,521; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$6,514,065; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$8,699,519; Committee on Financial Services, \$6,141,206; Committee on Government Reform, \$9,610,233; Committee on House Administration, \$3,857,383; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$3,547,088; Committee on International Relations, \$6,470,531; Committee on the Judiciary, \$6,826,561; Committee on Resources, \$6,005,994; Committee on Rules, \$2,726,264; Committee on Science,

\$5,455,373; Committee on Small Business, \$2,486,439; Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, \$1,512,383; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$7,514,887; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$2,625,498; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$7,520,407.

#### SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chairman of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any reduction in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the floor today House Resolution 84, the committee funding resolution for the 107th Congress. This resolution authorizes \$203.5 million for 18 standing committees of the House and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. It has been carefully crafted to adequately and responsibly fund committees, providing them with the means necessary to support their agendas, which is the agenda of the American people.

In their funding requests, committees requested \$223.9 million for the 107th Congress, an increase of \$40.5 million. This amounted to a 22.1 percent increase over the 106th authorized levels. Although it is important that committees have the necessary resources to support their workloads, it is also important to ensure we do it in a fiscally responsible manner. As a result, on a bipartisan basis, we have been able to cut more than 50 percent of the funds requested by committees from this resolution. The \$20.1 million increase in this resolution, however, is fiscally responsible. This amount funds our priorities and is crucial to enacting the agenda of the U.S. House. It deserves the support of our Republican Members.

The increase also supports five special circumstances that exist due to the changes in committee structures and jurisdiction, providing for added staff and funding for the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on International Relations, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Without these special cir-

cumstances, the overall increase for the 107th Congress would have been 8.6 percent. The 107th Congress mark is still lower than the overall funding levels in the 103d Congress.

The resolution also reaches a long-sought-after goal that allocates one-third of resources in the committees to the minority. As a result, this, I feel, is the fairest allocation of resources to the minority since the 104th Congress began.

In the 103d Congress, while still in the minority, Republicans established a goal providing the two-thirds/one-third split as we referred to it for the committee staff and resources. Progress was made in each of the last three Congresses, and I want to give credit to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), who is now chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, for working towards that goal. I believe that with this budget we have reached the goal.

A lot of work went into this, getting us to this point; and first I would like to thank a few people, and they would be first on the agenda the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and his staff, Scott Palmer and Ted Van Der Meid, who worked so diligently to achieve this goal.

We also need to recognize today the committee chairmen and also the ranking members, and I know my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), will be also commenting on that situation; but we need to, I believe, Mr. Speaker, let the American people know that in the House of Representatives, as we talk about comity and as we talk about bipartisan work to have the institution of the House operate, we need to realize that these chairmen and ranking members work diligently to communicate with each other and to establish what we have here today.

Also, I would like to thank the Committee on House Administration staff: Neil Volz, who is a staff director; Channing Nuss, Maria Robinson, Jeff Janice, and also Janet Giuliani and Steve Miller who are sitting here to my left and behind me. This is their swan song. They are going to be leaving the committee; and I do not know if we overworked them, Mr. Speaker, but they are actually going on to the Committee on Ways and Means with the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS). I do not know if we still have time for an amendment to strike some money from the Committee on Ways and Means budget so we can keep these two individuals. We can talk about that, I would say to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). But both of them have done a tremendous job, as all members have of this committee, and the staffs.

I also want to recognize the tremendous job of the ranking minority staff

of the Committee on House Administration, Bob Bean and all of the staff members who worked on a cooperative basis with our office, with our staff, with all of their committee ranking members, as our staff worked with the chairmen of the committees, to also produce this resolution today.

I would also note, Mr. Speaker, that we also have a situation where we looked at the technology upgrades of the House, the hearing rooms for the committees; and the Committee on House Administration has determined, in consultation with the Speaker's office and with my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), that funds requested for hearing room upgrades should be removed from the normal committee funding process. We realize that most committee hearing rooms are in serious need of improvement, as many have not had improvements in decades. However, it is important there be a standardized approach from an institutional perspective to ensure that all upgrades are of a minimal technical standard, can be maintained by the House, and provide a base level on which we can build for the future. So I also believe this is very responsible in taking this approach as a committee.

Let me just close by noting two things: number one, the goal, and since technology has burst through in this country, the goal has been to take the House of Representatives and make sure that citizens can see their House, the people's House, in action in the committees. We have worked towards that. When we do that and we use all of the technology to video stream and to have hearings on the Internet, to take it out over the radio waves and, as a result, it does have an increased workload. There is also an attitude amongst the chairmen of the committees and the ranking members that they would like to do hearings, which I think is admirable. Not everybody can get in a car or hop in an airplane to come to Washington, D.C. So with these resources we feel this will be a tremendous start for the chairmen and ranking members to take the people's House out on the road, as we would say, and be able to have citizens from across the country see hearings in action and be able to get their input.

Now, the second thing I wanted to close with is also very, very important to me personally and I believe the institution of the House, and that is a comment I want to make about our ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). Achieving a budget takes cooperation. Getting to the two-thirds/one-third to make the House run as it should, it takes cooperation. It is not a one-way street. The ranking members of the Committee on House Administration and the majority members have given of their time through this process, each

and every one of them has worked diligently to work with us to produce this.

But I have to publicly give accolades to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) because he did a yeoman's job in stepping up to the plate to make sure that the ranking members of the committee have the resources. He worked towards this goal that we had stated 6 years ago that we wanted to get to this point today, where we would be able to present this type of budget. But I just wanted to publicly point out that all of the ranking members really would be impressed if they saw all the amount of hours that the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and also his staff put in to make sure that this is a fair budget. He also worked with us and our majority members.

So, again, this is a fiscally-sound budget. It is a budget we can be proud of here in the U.S. House, and I want to again thank our staff, the ranking members, the Speaker, and also the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would like to thank the chairman for his comments, not only about my work, but on behalf of the minority staff regarding the role that they have played in this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 84, and I urge my Democratic colleagues to support it, as the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), has urged his colleagues to support it. The process through which this resolution was developed, and the concern demonstrated by the majority leadership to meeting the minority's legitimate needs, was in my opinion, a very positive process.

House Resolution 84 goes a long way, Mr. Speaker, toward achieving the minority's longtime goal of controlling one-third of each committee's total resources and staff slots. While it does not reach this goal in every single case, the ranking minority members of the 19 committees covered by the provisions of this resolution agree that substantial progress has been made over the levels of the 106th Congress. They have expressed to me their confidence that additional accommodations will occur over the course of the 107th Congress to deal with any remaining issues. Even the handful of committees that had been most visibly deficient in the past, in meeting the minority's legitimate needs, have come a long way, and most have met their target.

In the past, we have had representations which have appeared to hit the targets, but which have not. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the Speaker have been diligent in trying to make sure that those devices are no longer used, and I thank them both for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we have approximately a \$1.8 trillion budget that the elected representatives of this House, and the elected representatives of the other body, are charged with overseeing. We are given the responsibility to ensure that the funds are spent as they are intended to be spent, and are spent effectively on behalf of the American people, whose funds they are. That is a weighty responsibility. The budget for this body to carry out that task represents approximately one ten-thousandth of the dollars spent for the activities which we have the responsibility of overseeing. So it is a relatively small amount.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the amount authorized by this resolution, which is substantially less than the amount requested by the committees, is nevertheless an amount that will responsibly enable our committees, both the majority and the minority, to effectively carry out their responsibilities to the American people.

□ 1615

It is not easy to oversee budgets in the billions of dollars. It requires staff who are talented, diligent, and conscientious. To hire and retain such staff requires sufficient sums to compete in the marketplace. This budget allows the committees to do that, so I am very pleased to support this budget.

I also want to say that the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) has done yeoman's service on behalf of this institution—not just his party, and not just the minority—but on behalf of the whole institution, in creating an atmosphere in which we can come together, look at a problem, discuss it rationally, reasonably, and fairly, and come to a conclusion that I think all of us can support.

I think the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) will redound, both now and in the future, to the benefit of this institution, and I thank him for his consideration and his courage in confronting some who perhaps did not want to move quite as far toward the target that had been set.

I also want to thank the Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT). He made it very clear that he was committed to the target of one-third of the slots and one-third of the resources for the minority. The gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) and the Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), through their fairness and leadership helped accomplish this objective, and have set a powerful example.

Seven years ago, Mr. Speaker, when the majority was in the minority, a former Member of this body, Pat Roberts, now a member of the other body, promised, and I quote, "If lightning strikes and the sun comes up in the West and Republicans take over Congress, we are going to do that for you. You will at least get one-third."

Mr. Speaker, with the adoption of House Resolution 84, it would seem that something very unusual indeed has occurred in this body: Lightning has struck, and the sun has come up in the West.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that this body continues to experience such wonders of nature.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just wanted to make note, Mr. Speaker, that we appreciate that if something would happen and lightning would strike, it would be fair. Let us not do that test, though.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST).

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 84, the Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution.

First of all, I would like to commend and congratulate the chairman and the ranking member for the work they have done in committee to bring forward today what I consider to be a very fair and responsive funding resolution.

In this budget they have not only provided sufficient resources to facilitate the work of the committees and the Congress, but they have done so in a fiscally responsible way.

In this regard, I think it is worth noting, as the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) said, that the budget for the 107th Congress is still \$20 million below the spending levels for the 103rd.

I also want to commend the Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), and the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), for the long hours they have put in to assure a more fair and equitable distribution of resources to the minority. I should say that the Committee on Agriculture, which I chair, has long lived by the two-thirds/one-third rule with respect to the division of committee funds. I think this has served our committee well. I think it serves the interests of the people we represent well.

I think the fact that today's resolution finally achieves this ratio broadly for all committees is remarkable and historic, and will ultimately serve this Congress in the best interests of the people that we represent and that we work for.

Again, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their hard work on this resolution, a very responsible resolution. I urge my colleagues to support overwhelmingly the passage of House Resolution 84.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), a member of the Committee on House Administration and a gentleman who has worked very hard to accomplish this result.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, let me first rise to say that I come from a background in the Pennsylvania Senate and General Assembly, I spent 12 years there, where we had something which was entitled the Bipartisan Management Committee. The entire management of the legislature was handled through the Bipartisan Management Committee, in which decisions around funding and committee size and staff issues were handled in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, I think what has taken place in the Committee on House Administration, under the leadership of both the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), is as close to that as is possible here in the Congress in the sense that there has really been a bipartisan effort to figure out what, as a professional legislative body, is needed for the various committees to implement their objectives and responsibilities, and to adequately provide for that in terms of the overall funding levels for committees; to also meet a threshold, a target, if you will, set by the majority party when it was in the minority of a one-third provision of resources for a minority party in this Congress to be able to articulate and fight for its positions on a variety of issues. We have accomplished that.

I want to thank not just the chairman and the ranking member, I want to thank some of the people who had to work a little to get us there, including someone who I have not often said nice things about, I guess, on the floor of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform that I served on for 6 years. His committee and a number of the other committees, the Committee on the Judiciary and others, had to move a little bit so we could all come here today in support of this resolution.

I want to thank not just the leadership of the Committee on House Administration, but I want to thank others in the majority who helped move this Congress to a place that I think will gain us greater respect from all who view us.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I want to say that I hope as this Congress goes forward, that we will continue to be prepared to meet the growing needs of the financial resources that our various committees will have; that we will work in terms of improving the committees and hearing rooms, and doing whatever else is necessary so that Members of what all would agree is the premier lawmaking body in the world would have the ability to carry out in a professional way their work; and that our committees are capable of taking charge of the great responsibilities we have as the United States Congress.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE).

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution because this resolution embodies some real leadership, the leadership to do the right thing for the House of Representatives. As has been noted by the other speakers, it was necessary to make some adjustments so that we could provide the equity and the comity that is necessary between the two parties. This is something that I think is very desirable.

This resolution constitutes a responsible reflection of committee Chair requests for the 107th Congress. The committee Chairs requested a 22-percent increase in funding over the 106th Congress. The gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) and the Committee on House Administration were able to cut that request in half and still satisfy committee needs, and still obtain unanimous endorsement from all the committee Chairs and the ranking members.

We hear lots of talk about bipartisanship, but this is not only talk, but reflects the actions of bipartisanship. I have always heard for years about the acrimony in the Committee on House Administration. As a new member of it, I must say I have never seen a smoother process than the one that occurred over this committee funding issue, with both sides really working closely together to provide support for this. I think it is something that is very commendable, and it stands out and should serve really as a model for how we operate.

The funding resolution does provide or moves us greatly towards the two-thirds/one-third allocation of resources between the majority and the minority parties.

I would especially like to recognize our Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), for the leadership, the encouragement he gave us to move in this direction, as well as the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and commend the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) in the minority in working with us on this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this resolution, which by all estimates is a fair, balanced, responsible, and necessary funding blueprint.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) knows, it was our position on this side that every ranking member of the 19 committees had to be in a position of being treated fairly for us to support the resolution. Again, through the work of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the work of the ranking members and the chairmen, we have accomplished that objective.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Institutions, who worked very closely with the new chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), to reach agreement.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 84, the Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution. I particularly want to offer my support for the recommended funding for the Committee on Financial Services. This committee is now the second largest committee of the Congress. It cannot afford to ignore or inadequately address any of its areas of responsibilities in an increasingly integrated financial services market. The increase in funding will help the committee to fulfill its responsibilities.

I appreciate that the members of the Committee on House Administration have to struggle with some difficult choices between competing demands to trying to allocate the resources necessary so all committees can do their jobs. I want to thank them for the effort they made on behalf of the Committee on Financial Services.

I want to especially thank and commend the Democratic leadership for its strong advocacy of and commitment to the equitable allocation of resources to our minority. Thanks to their persistence, most ranking members will enjoy one-third control over staff slots and funds, with real discretion over these two areas once the resolution is adopted.

This one-third/two-thirds ratio for all committee resources is a minimal and absolutely essential component of an equitable distribution of dollars and staffing. I am pleased that most committees will finally have that authority.

The full Committee on House Administration, members of both parties, including especially the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), are to be commended for crafting such a well-balanced budget package.

I would urge all my colleagues, particularly those on my side of the aisle, to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge the committee to do something else. I urge the committee to exercise the authority it has to ensure that treatment of expenses for representational duties in the District of Columbia is no better but no worse than the treatment given to State legislators in almost each and every State, and most especially in States such as California and New York.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud the gentleman's statement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE),

the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 84, as amended, which provides funding for the committees of the House of Representatives in the first session of the 107th Congress.

At the outset, I, too, would like to commend and thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), chairman of the Committee on House Administration, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking Democratic member, and other members of this committee in guiding a thoughtful and well-crafted resolution to the House floor today.

□ 1630

The task before them is by no means an easy one and is often complicated by the many different committee demands and requirements for resources.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the Committee on House Administration have deliberated long hours to produce a resolution which strikes a balance between fiscal belt-tightening and funding allocation priorities.

In particular, I think I speak for most Members of the House when I say we appreciate the unflagging efforts of both the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), as well as the entire Committee on House Administration in bringing to the floor today a product which is predicted to receive wide, bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, the work of the Committee on International Relations is as important to the national interests as is the work of any department or agency our committee oversees. The decisions we make with respect to our policy and involvement towards other countries are as important as any decisions this Congress makes.

Although, I, of course, wish the Committee on International Relations had received its entire request, I believe we can work within the amount allocated to us in this resolution and still achieve a record of accomplishments of which the Congress and the American people can be proud.

I wish to take this opportunity to weigh in a very real problem all Members face in the House. I am speaking about the physical office and meeting space availability or, rather, unavailability. When I appeared before the Committee on House Administration earlier this month, I suggested that perhaps it is not too visionary to contemplate another office building. The Senate has three office buildings to serve the interests of 100 Senators. On the House side, we have three buildings that are overutilized to serve the interests of 435 Members.

Mr. Speaker, I bring this up now so we might think about remedies for the very near future.

In closing, I urge the Members of the House to support H. Res. 84 as reported from the Committee on House Administration so the committees of the House can discharge their responsibilities and get on with the very important business we are sent here to do.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, we have one more speaker on this issue, this resolution. I want to say 21 years ago, Mr. Speaker, when I was in the Ohio House, I had a very young colleague from Ohio, and he was going off to Congress. I often wondered what would become of him. Now we know; he has become chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit with a lot of new responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY).

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me first begin by thanking the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), my good friend and colleague, for a virtuoso performance on this. I think probably, at least certainly in my almost 20 years in the House, this is the first time I can remember that we have had such a great working relationship between the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), chairman of the Committee on House Administration, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my good friend, to put this package together that satisfied just about everybody in what we wanted to try to accomplish in the way of committee funding.

From the hearings, where I had an opportunity to participate, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, to the efforts to make certain that not only were the chairmen but the ranking members satisfied with the numbers, has brought us today on the floor and on the verge of passing this legislation by an overwhelming margin.

It is in no small part due to the efforts of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) as well as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for their dedication to the work.

I suspect that not any of us got all that we had asked for, it is rare around this place that we get everything that we ask for, but I have to say that I have not talked to one Member, either chairman or ranking member, who felt that they did not get a fair shake from the Committee on House Administration, and that ultimately is what counts.

Mr. Speaker, our committee, as you know, is a new committee. It is the second largest committee in the House. We have assumed enormous new responsibilities particularly dealing with the Wall Street issues of securities and exchanges, as well as insurance added on to the traditional banking issues, as well as the IMF, World Bank, and others; but we have a wide range of issues, and we needed that kind of extra staff to carry out our functions.

Mr. Speaker, to show my colleagues how fair this whole process worked out to be, particularly with the two-thirds, one-third, we will receive in our committee nine new staffing slots, five of which will go to the minority. Clearly, the gentleman's efforts have borne fruit in moving this bipartisan effort and making certain that the committees were funded properly and have the opportunity to do and carry out the agendas that we have before us.

I have nothing but praise for the process and particularly for the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), the chairman, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my good friend, for what they have been able to accomplish and bring to the floor today.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will make the representation, as I said before, that all 19 ranking members are going to support this resolution. They will do so because we have come together, sat down at the table, reasoned together and come up with what we believe to be a fair resolution.

Like the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) said, it is not perfect from anybody's standpoint, but perfect was not possible. But fair was possible, and it was achieved. It was achieved because I think the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), Speaker of the House of Representatives, believed it appropriate; the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), our chairman, fought hard to achieve that result.

It was not always easy. There were obviously some who felt that they did not like the shift that was being made, but because of the commitment to fairness of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), fairness was achieved. I appreciate that.

There have been times, obviously, when on our side of the aisle, some thought that fairness was not achieved. We still are concerned about the ratios on committees. We are concerned from time to time with the processes that the Committee on Rules adopts, which precludes us from, we think, putting forward our propositions in a fair way.

It is good for the public to know, Mr. Speaker, that there are more times than not when we can sit down and come to agreement, knowing full well that all of us serve the American people, and they expect us to work together in as positive and productive a fashion as we can.

The leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) have provided the opportunity for that to occur, and our ranking members have worked hard with their chairmen to accomplish that objective.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have done it, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.



Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I found in the years that I have served in office that the American people have a willingness to become involved in the energetic give-and-take of public debate, and that public debate on behalf of the people of the country is made in the committees. The committees are the heart of what this institution is about.

This is a proposal, a resolution we can be proud of. It is fiscally responsible. It is, I believe, a good day for not only the House, but for the American people, because the institution of the House works.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution. While the resolution does not include the full request of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which the Minority supported, it does recognize the increased workload facing our Committee. Each of the six subcommittees has more than a full plate, with issues such as patient protections, prescription drugs for seniors, and national energy policies, even before consideration of Administration proposals that will presumably be forthcoming.

I note that the proposed budget is a significant improvement in its treatment of the minority. Although my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have previously spoken of a goal of a two-thirds/one-third split between the Majority and Minority in funding and staff positions, the Minority on the Committee on Energy and Commerce has never received even that modest allocation. Under this resolution, however, the minority members, who constitute 49 percent of the House and 45 percent of the Energy and Commerce Committee, will finally be allocated one-third of the funding and staff slots long promised by the majority party. More importantly, it is my understanding that an accommodation of the needs of the Minority has also been reached on the other Committees as well.

Because of these improvements, I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it. I would note that this resolution is just a first step in the process; the House will need to allocate sufficient funds to make good on its promises. This resolution represents a good beginning, and I hope it carries over into more mundane matters, like office space, as well as into legislation on important policy questions.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered on the resolution, as amended.

The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include therein extraneous material on H. Res. 84, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1715

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) at 5 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, March 22, 2001 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for a period of debate on the subject of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1721

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for a period of debate on the subject of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002, with Mr. HOBSON (Chairman pro tempore) in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, March 22, 2001, general debate shall not exceed 3 hours, with 2 hours confined to the congressional budget, equally divided and controlled by the ranking member of the Committee on the Budget and 1 hour on the subject of economic goals and policies, equally divided and controlled by the gentleman

from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK). The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) each will control 1 hour of debate on the congressional budget.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE).

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this is an opportunity that only comes around every few years, and that is an opportunity, as my friend and colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) suggested at the Committee on Rules when we met just a little while ago, to have a watershed budget, kind of a real opportunity for taking a fresh look at where we are as a country; where we are as a Federal Government; what are our priorities; what are our values; what are our principles as we move forward.

As we look into this century, we have accomplished so much on this threshold and yet there are so many challenges that face us, but just to give us a little bit of a threshold to work from, let me suggest that, Mr. Chairman, we are about to debate the fifth straight balanced budget, and that in and of itself, I believe, not only is a real treat but a real accomplishment.

We have built that budget. We have built that accomplishment in a bipartisan way, Republicans and Democrats struggling and arguing and sometimes even fighting to come up with the priorities that shape our country's future. We did not do it alone, and we did it together along the way sometimes; sometimes not. But I think we all have a lot to be very proud of as we stand on this threshold and look forward.

Probably the people who deserve the most credit, as we stand on this threshold, are the people that are watching at home, balancing their checkbooks around their kitchen table, making the decision about where their kids are going to college, getting that Visa bill in the mail and going, oh, man, not again, or finding out that the energy prices just went up yet again and how that is going to have to take away from some of their other priorities.

So as we struggle through that which we think is so important here in Washington, D.C., let us be ever mindful of the kitchen-table conversations that are going on around America tonight, and those kitchen-table conversations, while maybe not having as many zeroes as the zeroes we are going to talk about in this particular budget, are just as important, if not more important, to the future of America.

As we build this budget, we build on a very solid foundation. And we decided in order to continue that solid foundation far into the future that we had to adopt six principles that would guide our deliberation, that would guide the